

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



Brings You News
From Sacramento

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Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

Tackling Gas Prices

Although gas prices have come down a little over the past few weeks, they're still very high and motorists all over California are infuriated every time they fill up. As I have looked into the causes of the high prices, one fact becomes more and more apparent – a lack of competition is keeping prices higher than they need to be. That's why I've introduced a bill to bring more competition to pricing in California.

Currently, the owners of brand name gasoline must pay whatever price their refinery-pricing manager decides to charge. Typically, dealers are given different wholesale prices for gasoline depending on the location of their station. That's why a station near your home may charge more for gasoline than the same branded station just a mile away. Each branded station is "Zone Priced" by the refinery at different rates. Refinery zone pricing gives the oil companies control over retail prices and allows them to control dealers' profits.

My bill, AB 146, will allow retailers to buy the most inexpensive branded gasoline they can find. This gives locally owned gas stations the ability to compete on a level playing field with big refinery owned and operated stations. It makes manipulating prices at the wholesale level much more difficult.

To read the text of this bill, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and search by bill number or author.



Woman of the Year

Congratulations to
Alemi Daba, the 2003
Woman of the Year for
the 76th Assembly
District.

Water Metering – A good measure for the entire state

In San Diego we know how much water we use in our homes – our water is metered, and we pay for what we use. By putting a dollar value on water, our consumption is more relative and immediate. If you want to pay less, you use less. If you use less, you end up paying less. This is a simple and fair system that encourages water conservation and has made us a leader when it comes to saving this precious resource.

However, as the California water crisis continues to loom, the inevitable question lingers, *Why aren't all cities in California following the same system?*

As San Diegans pay for and conserve our water, there are still areas in the state -- such as Fresno and Sacramento -- where residents are billed a flat rate for water *regardless of consumption*. Without water meters, it is impossible for homeowners and businesses to know how much water they are using, thereby inhibiting conservation, punishing those who conserve, and rewarding those who waste water. A Fresno Public Works Department study showed that residents in Fresno and Sacramento use considerably more water than other cities – roughly twice as much.

This is not fair. That's why I'm proposing legislation to require *statewide* water metering. This bill, AB 306, would require all California communities to have water meters usage for all residences and non-agricultural businesses.

No region has an unlimited supply of water. All regions need to work together to help ensure our water supplies last. San Diego's water metering system is a model that should be followed by the *entire* state.

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“When Not to Keep a Secret” Contest, Local Student Shines

The American Psychiatric Association Alliance's “When Not to Keep A Secret” Essay Contest was created to provide a vehicle to encourage students to think about issues that affect them and their community. The program encourages students to seek assistance from a trusted adult, and to understand that violent talk can lead to violent behavior. In order to write on the topic, students have to confront harsh truths and explore the various facets of ethical behavior.

The results of this year's competition have just been released, and I'm happy to report that Serra High School's Melissa Looper placed third in the statewide competition.

I have been involved in this important program for the four years it has been in California. We must continue to search for solutions and encourage young people to break the chains of secrecy and seek out responsible adults when the safety of others is in jeopardy. We must remind our youth that some secrets are too big to keep to themselves.

The winners were honored at a ceremony at the State Capitol on Thursday, April 24. For more information on the program, go to http://www.cmaa.net/health_edu%20secret.html.

Earth Day 2003 – Join me in Balboa Park

Thirty-three years ago, over 20 million people from all walks of life came together to establish Earth Day, a day intended to draw attention to the health and well-being of our environment. This year, in California and elsewhere around the world, Earth Day will be celebrated with beach and park clean-ups, tree plantings and educational festivals to teach children and adults about how to preserve and protect our natural heritage – the Earth.

California's scenic environment -- its rocky coasts, sandy beaches, towering redwood forests, stark deserts, winding rivers and snow-capped mountains -

- make it the most beautiful state in the nation. However, even though Californians have traditionally taken the lead in protecting nature, there is so much more we can and must do, if we are to ensure a healthy environment for our children and for generations to come

To see what you can do to become involved, join me at the annual EarthFair in Balboa Park on May 4th. This is the largest free environmental fair in the United States. Produced entirely by volunteers, EarthFair draws around 60,000 visitors. My office is hosting a booth, which will be located across from the Lily Pond within the Prado area. I'll be at the booth from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. EarthFair goes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on the event, go to http://www.earthdayweb.org/SDEW_EarthFair.html.

Join me at my “Mobile Office”

On Saturday May 3rd, I'm setting up a “Mobile Office” in Point Loma.

My Mobile Office hours will be 10 a.m. –noon. The office will be set up in front of VONS Market at 1666 Rosecrans St., at the corner of Rosecrans and Nimitz. A CHP officer will also be on hand from 11 a.m. until noon to conduct free safety fingerprinting for children.

For more information, call (619) 294-7600. I hope to see you there!

*Kids get
safety
finger-
printed at
my
February
Mobile
Office*



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